



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: August 5, 2004

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GOV. EASLEY SIGNS BOND BILL INTO LAW

House Bill 1264 To Provide Thousands of Jobs and World-Class Health Care Facilities to State

RALEIGH— Gov. Mike Easley today signed into law House Bill 1264 which authorizes borrowing to fund university projects across the state. Easley signed the bills at the North Carolina Women's Hospital at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and also at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University in Greenville.

"House Bill 1264 will offer citizens who suffer from cardiovascular diseases and cancer world-class facilities in which to be treated within the borders of North Carolina," said Easley. "This bill will improve health care across the state and bring high-skill, high-wage jobs to hard-working North Carolina families."

The bill will improve health care in the state by providing, for example:

- \$180 million for a new cancer rehabilitation and treatment center at the University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill. The center will be known as the N.C. Cancer Hospital.
- \$60 million for the North Carolina Cardiovascular Diseases Institute at East Carolina University.
- \$28 million for a new Pharmacy School program to be located at Elizabeth City State University.

Nearly one in four deaths in the state are caused by cancer. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in both men and women. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths for all North Carolina women. Moreover, the number of patients entering UNC for cancer care has increased 35 percent in the last six years. That number is expected to nearly double over the next 30 years due to the aging of the population.

North Carolina has one of the highest rates of advanced cardiovascular disease in the nation, accounting for one in four deaths. Cardiovascular disease accounts for the leading cause of hospital admissions and premature deaths in men and women. The 29 counties of Eastern North Carolina have the highest rate of cardiovascular disease compared to the rest of the state.

The construction of the university facilities will generate more than \$700 million in economic activity and an estimated 2,500 construction jobs over the life of the projects.

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